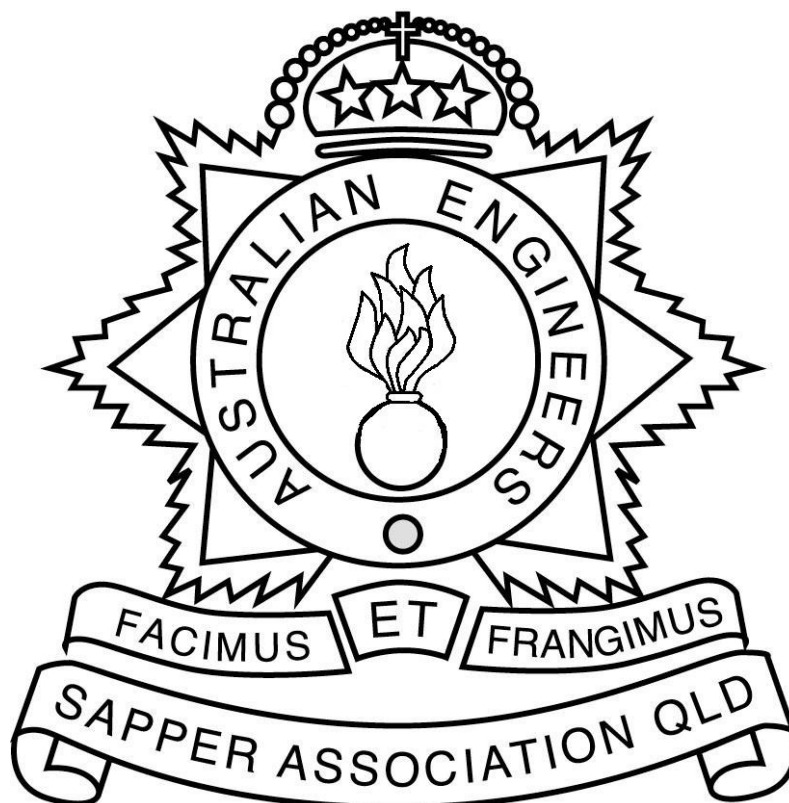


**THE SAPPER**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**QUEENSLAND**  
**(INC.)**

**PATRON**

HECTOR MACDONALD



**NEWSLETTER 3/2020**

This will be the last newsletter for the year. Therefore, as year's end rushes towards us, I wish all members, their families and loved ones a very Happy and Safe Christmas and we all look forward to better times in the New Year.

BRISBANE  
The Sapper Association Queensland (Inc.)  
P.O. Box 1043  
STAFFORD,  
Queensland 4053  
E-mail: [sapper.association.qld@gmail.com](mailto:sapper.association.qld@gmail.com)

NORTH QUEENSLAND  
The Sapper Association Queensland (Inc)  
P.O. Box 1828  
AITKENVALE,  
Queensland 4814  
E-mail: [president@nqsappers.org](mailto:president@nqsappers.org)

### **QUEENSLAND COMMITTEE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

PATRON:	HECTOR MACDONALD	
PRESIDENT:	BOB CRAWFORD	3359 5338
VICE PRESIDENT:	BOB PFEIFFER	0497 501 960
NQ BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE	TONY KEALLEY	Ph 4779 5951
SECRETARY	JOHN MCCREADIE	0419 279 907
ASST SECRETARY:	JOHN JESSER	3356 9297
TREASURER	PETER CAMPBELL	0422 638 218
ASST TREASURER:	PETER C AYLETT	3298 5526
EDITOR	BOB BANNAN	3205 1820
ASST EDITOR	RHEANNA VEHLLOW	
WELFARE	PETER CAIRNES	0427 558 685
	HARRY CLAASSEN	3273 6701
COMMITTEE/SOCIAL:	BLUE MACKELLAR	3869 0834
	RON LARSEN	3822 3787

### **NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

President:	Tony Kealley	Mob: 0420404994	email: <a href="mailto:president@nqsappers.org">president@nqsappers.org</a>
Vice President	Cliff Kemp	Mob: 0409 892 257	email: <a href="mailto:vpres@nqsappers.org">vpres@nqsappers.org</a>
Membership	Cliff Kemp	Mob: 0409 892 257	email: <a href="mailto:vpres@nqsappers.org">vpres@nqsappers.org</a>
Secretary	Scott Reid	Mob: 0418 889541	email: <a href="mailto:secretary@nqsappers.org">secretary@nqsappers.org</a>
Asst Secretary	Clare Berry	Mob: 0411 377 574	email: <a href="mailto:clare.berry@defence.com.au">clare.berry@defence.com.au</a>
Treasurer	Gary Beveridge	Mob: 0403 266 106	email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@nqsappers.org">treasurer@nqsappers.org</a>
Asst Treasurer	Deb Kealley	Mob: 0407 242 200	email: <a href="mailto:kealleys@bigpond.com">kealleys@bigpond.com</a>
Welfare	Barry Low	Mob: 0417 106 435	email: <a href="mailto:welfare@nqsappers.org">welfare@nqsappers.org</a>
Social	Jeremy Browne	Mob: 0418 646 463	email: <a href="mailto:bull-frog4269@hotmail.com">bull-frog4269@hotmail.com</a>
Property	Ron Smith	Mob: 0438 508 104	email: <a href="mailto:maron63@bigpond.com">maron63@bigpond.com</a>
Member	Pat Daley	Mob: 0438 740 028	email: <a href="mailto:FRO@nqsappers.org">FRO@nqsappers.org</a>
Member	Joanne Daley	Ph.: (07) 47740028	email: <a href="mailto:FRO@nqsappers.org">FRO@nqsappers.org</a>
Member	Terry McKeown	Mob: 0458 377 801	email: <a href="mailto:tdmckeown@gmail.com">tdmckeown@gmail.com</a>
Member	Greg Cottier	Mob: 0488 228 949	email: <a href="mailto:gregcotts@gmail.com">gregcotts@gmail.com</a>

**Please do not hesitate to contact your committee should the need arise.**

#### **The Sapper Association, Queensland Inc.** **Brisbane**

Saturday 06 Dec 2020 TBA  
Saturday 30 Jan 2021 TBA  
Saturday 27 March 2021 TBA

Easter Break for 2021, 2 Apr – 5 Apr 2021, allowing for the 2021 AGM to be held Sunday 18 April 2021, ANZAC Day will be the following Sunday.

**ANZAC Day**  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

#### **The Sapper Association, Queensland Inc.** **NQ Branch**

Thuringowa RSL Club – 11am  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.

Check with your committee members regarding Meetings and how they will be held..

#### **2021 Annual General Meeting**

The AGM Brisbane and Townsville will be held on Sunday, 18th April 2021.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Well, here we are, with Christmas and years end fast approaching in what can best be described as an interesting year. At last, if things do not change, the year will finish on a brighter note with end of year functions being planned.

Our various AGM's are now done and dusted with incoming/returning Office bearers now settled in. I would like to thank you for your commitment to the Association. Good help is becoming hard to come by.

Limited though they may be under the prevailing restrictions, both Branches contacts with the various Regiments remain solid. Hopefully, the New Year will see an uptake in the Associations activities with the Regiments.

On a sad note once again we have seen the passing of fellow Sappers and our numbers continue to dwindle. Hard as it may be we must maintain our efforts to recruit more members to keep our Association viable.

As this may be the last Newsletter for the year I would like to wish all the best for the remainder of the year and next and look forward to a less restrictive New Year.

Kind Regards,

Bob C.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that, because of the pandemic and social distancing regulations, most future events have been put on hold at present.

If you need answers to any questions, contact your local committee.

XO 2 CER has advised the Association of the following activities (and dates) that Sappers Association members are invited to. Further details to follow.

Fri 13 Nov - Regt Ball.

Sat 21 Nov – Proposed date for family day.  
Details TBC

Thu 26 Nov - Regt Birthday. Cake cutting and CO's address

Thu 3 Dec – Soldiers lunch including awards parade/unit photo/ Offr/SNCO cricket match.

The Sappers Association Christmas Luncheon will be held at Royal Queensland Yacht Club – Manley, Saturday 28 November 2020, numbers to be limited to 45 people due to Covid restrictions. Numbers have been filled.

### QUEENSLAND (BRISBANE) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION ELECTRONIC BANKING, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

We have now introduced electronic banking so that members have the option of paying annual subs by this method. We ask that all who use this option make sure they identify each transaction as theirs, so our treasurer is able to keep the books of account correctly, as required by the Office of Fair Trading. This will also allow our nominal roll to be kept up to date. Annual Subs are due by 1st April each year.

**Ordinary membership \$20, Country membership \$10. (Over 100km from the Brisbane City Centre).**

<b>BANK:</b>	<b>BANK OF QUEENSLAND</b>
<b>NAME OF ACCOUNT:</b>	<b>THE SAPPER ASSOCIATION QLD INC.</b>
<b>BSB NO.:</b>	<b>124021</b>
<b>ACCOUNT NO.:</b>	<b>21814271</b>

PLEASE SHOW BOTH YOUR **MEMBERSHIP NUMBER** AND YOUR **SURNAME** AS A REFERENCE.

## **PASSING PARADE**

It is important that all members understand that we honour the memory of all Sappers who have passed away. Lest we Forget.

The following have passed away since last newsletter.

**27467, MCEWAN-FERGUSON, John, ex WO2, RAE, (QC)**, passed away on 16 July 2020. John served with 17 Const Sqn then 30 Port Sqn, RAE, before he served with AATTV South Vietnam, 1964–65 where he was awarded the Queen's Commendation for bravery, then HQ, Aust Force Vietnam, 1967–68.. A small Funeral Service was held for John on Thursday, 30 July 2020 at the South Chapel, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Leppington, NSW. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**58797, HAWKE, Kenneth Charles, ex Sapper**, passed away on 9 August 2020. Ken served with 21 Engr Spt Tp, South Vietnam, 1968–69. A small Funeral Service was held for Ken. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**SHEPHARD, Mark Alan (Shep), COL, RAE, CSC, (Retd)**, passed away on 8 August 2020 after a battle with Cancer.(56 years of age). Mark was a true professional serving his country and the Corps with distinction for over 30 years. A small family Requiem Mass on Friday, 14 August 2020, was held for Mark at St Francis Xavier Church, Lavender Bay, NSW. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**217823, TANNER, Noel, ex Sapper**, passed away on 13 August 2020, aged 77years. Noel served in South Vietnam and PNG plus postings around Sydney area. Noel's Funeral was held on 24 August 2020, at Leura Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, Blue Mountains, NSW.

**HUTCHESON, John Malcolm, COL, RAE, MC, (Retd)**, passed away on 18 August 2020, aged 92 years. John had a distinguished military career. He was awarded his MC in Korea, served in South Vietnam on a number of occasions, was the CO of SME, Chief Engineer 1971–72 and was credited with the design of the Hutcheson Huts. In retirement he volunteered at the Library, ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney. His Funeral was held on 27 August 2020 at Pymble Uniting Church, followed by a graveside Military Service at Ascension Hill Gardens, Macquarie Park Cemetery, NSW. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**1201954, GASKE, Raymond Thomas (Pappy), ex Sapper**, passed away on 7 September 2020. Pappy served with 17 Const Sqn in South Vietnam, 1978–1979. A small Funeral Service for Pappy would have been held mid-September in Boulder, WA, where he had lived recently.

**311614, HEALY, Donal (Paddy) Mary, ex Cpl, RAE**, passed away on 7 September 2020.

Paddy served with 2 Tp, 1 Fd Sqn, South Vietnam, 1970–71. A small Funeral Service was held for Paddy in mid-September.(Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**145403, BIRD, Ross Crighton, ex Sgt, RAE/RACT**, passed away on. Ross served with 34 Water Tpt Unit for almost 30 years. The Unit was based at Kangaroo Point and Bulimba. A small Funeral Service was held for Ross on Thursday, 1 October 2020 at Mt Thompson Crematorium, OLD.(Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**137519, JANAS, Stan J, ex Cpl, RAE**, passed away back on 21 February 2020. Stan served with 11Fd Sqn, and was posted to Tpt Tp. When 5 Fd Engr Regt, RAE was raised in 1976, he was posted as Spv Tpt, RHQ. By the early 1980s he had corps transferred to a Brisbane RACT Unit.

**MALSEED, Elaine, Wife of Les Malseed, Major, RAE (Retd) of 69years**, passed away on Sunday, 20 September 2020 at Hastings, VIC. Les had been the OC, 91 Forestry Sqn and served in the RAE for 28 years. A small family Funeral Service was held for Elaine.

**QX41946, HANLEY, Francis Thomas (Bill), ex Sgt, RAE**, passed away peacefully at home on 8 October 2020 aged 99 years. He enlisted in Cairns in 1942, sent to Brisbane for Trade Training, posted to 12th Aust Army Troops Coy. Unit built Army Hospitals at Warwick, Goondiwindi, then Atherton, Rocky Creek and North Cairns State School, built Field Hospitals. They set up the Redlynch Staging Camp. 1944 they did Pre-embarkation Training at Kapooka and shipped to Jacquinot Bay, New Britain as part of 5th Div (AIF). Unit built Camp Clearing Hospital, bridges and aerodrome for Royal NZ Air Force. At war's end was sent to Rabaul to employ POWs then discharged in 1946. A Mass of Thanksgiving for Bill's Life was held at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Bulimba, QLD, on 23 October 2020. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**3790800, CLIFFARD, William Alfred (Bill), ex Sapper**, passed away mid– September 2020. He was a Vietnam Veteran and great worker at Noble Park RSL Sub Branch, Vic.. A small Funeral Service would have been held for Bill. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**42484, MOON, Michael James, ex Cpl, RAE**, passed away in early October 2020 Michael was a Plant Operator and served with 24 Const Sqn in Borneo then with 1 Fd Sqn in South Vietnam. He was wounded in action on the 10 April 1970 and awarded the Cross of Gallantry. A Small Family Service for Michael was held on 14 October 2020, at F.J.Potter Funeral Home, Broken Hill, NSW.(Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**313908, PARISH, Brian (Sparrow), ex Sapper**, passed away on the 7 October 2020. Brian served with 17 Const Sqn in Namibia under UN Forces, He also served with 21 Const Sqn and was awarded his BEM for work on the construction of All Saints Chapel, Lavarack Bks, Townsville. After discharge, Brian worked on reconstruction in Croatia with the UN. He also worked in Malaya and PNG Highlands on reconstruction of hospitals and Schools. His was a small Family Funeral in Melbourne around 20 October 2020. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**1734218, ZADEBERNYLJ, Peter, ex Sapper**, passed away on 8 October 2020 after a long battle with Cancer. Peter did National Service then served with 1 Fd Sqn GP in South Vietnam, 1967/68 and served with 21 Support Troop in 1969/70. His was a small Funeral Service in mid– October 2020, followed by burial at Mt Gravatt Cemetery, QLD. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**218898, HAYFORD, Paul, ex Sgt, RAE**, passed away on the 15 October 2020. Paul served with SME (TRG & Staff), 3 Fd Engr Regt, DSU, NQ (AW Branch). His Funeral was held on 23 October 2020, at Morleys Chapel, Townsville, QLD.

**3788467, SMITH, Colin George (Col/Smithy), ex Sapper**, passed away in late– October 2020. Col served with 21 Engr Spt Tp in South Vietnam from Aug 1967 to Mar 1968. His small family Funeral was held in early November 2020 at Horsham, VIC. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

**CROWLEY, Pat (Crash), LTCOL, RAE (Ret'd)**, passed away on the 29 October 2020. He would have held several postings as OC of sub units and CO of units during his career. Pat's small family Funeral was to be held on 10 November 2020 at Hillside Chapel, Palmdale, NSW. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

Our condolences go to all their families.

### **SICK PARADE**

Best wishes for a full recovery to all those who are undergoing treatment at present. A special “Get Well” also to all those who may just be “feeling off their oats” right now. Of course, our thoughts are also with their often hard-pressed spouses and families.

**Dave Wilson** was back in Greenslopes with another infection, Ward 33 Room 27, you can phone David after 10.30am on 0413 482 258.

**Bodo BOETTCHER** is now in Rehab after a stint in a Melbourne Hospital. He can be contacted on Mobile 0423– 527 827.

**Eddie ZUCH** was injured in a car accident back in April. He is now recovering back home with a carer at Nanango. He will be undergoing Rehab for quite a while as injuries were severe. You can cheer him up by calling on (07) 4163 7203.

**Graham (Cowboy) CURTIS** has been in Townsville Hospital (Oncology) till mid-September, then transferred to RBWH Brisbane for the main treatment. His Mobile is 0439– 645 980 if you wish to call.

**Kevin (Defor) HUGHES** was getting treatment at Wesley Hospital for six weeks a while back. He is now home and can be contacted for a yarn on Mobile 0421– 959 674.

**John ROBERTSON** was in intensive care at the Mater Hospital, Townsville, back on 25 September 2020. He is presently back in the Mater getting treatment for an infection.

**Richard SCOTT** was in Townsville Hospital back in late– September with severe pain in his neck. We don't know his whereabouts now.



## OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Happenings from the Deep North 1/2020

By John Cotter Esq



### AWARD OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDAL

The National Emergency Medal was established by Her Majesty The Queen by Letters Patent and *National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011*, approved by The Queen on her visit to Australia in October 2011.

The National Emergency Medal is awarded to members of identified organisations or individuals who rendered a minimum duration of service during specified dates in specified places in response to nationally significant emergencies within Australia (sustained service); or to persons who rendered extraordinary service in response to such emergencies (significant service), that did not satisfy the minimum duration of service required to constitute sustained service.

The National Emergency Medal is an operational service medal which recognises significant or sustained service to others in a nationally significant emergency

For service during the North Queensland floods of January and February 2019 the National Emergency Medal has been awarded to Deborah Kealley, Tony Kealley, Cliff Kemp, Barry Low and Stephen Zammit of the North Queensland Sappers. It is also expected to be awarded to members of 3CER and 3Bde who participated in the flood operations.

Well done to those members. A fine example of what we are all about. ☺

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM eventually went off on the 2nd August (thanks to old mate Covid-19) with a good roll up of 36 members, 3 guests and 5 apologies from members. Good to see some new faces on the committee which is just one member under full strength.

Don Cameron has hung up his social hat and passed the book of social secrets to Jeremy Browne although Don did help out with the Magnetic Island mid-year function and the recent Fishing Odyssey. Don has served on the committee in various roles for 20 years, more recently as social supremo producing well appreciated functions. Don was presented with a Presidential Commendation Certificate for continued outstanding service by the President at the AGM.

Allan Mansell has stepped down after a number of years on the committee and was presented with a certificate of Appreciation by the President at the AGM.

The Fund Raising Officer's portfolio has been dispensed with and the duties realigned to provide a more even work load. Pat and Jo Daley have remained on the committee and will happily sell you military and association memorabilia; Cliff Kemp will gladly add your name to the sausage sizzle roster; Barry Low will sell you sheaf's of raffle tickets (when old mate Covid allows) and Deb Kealley will happily take your donations. We are in good hands. ☺

### ON THE SOCIAL SCENE

The Events Calendar has served up a couple of outings for members and their guests with the mid-year function hosted by the Magnetic Island RSL Club and the annual Fishing Odyssey hosted by Gary McClintock at Black River.

36 members and guests sailed (ferried?) to Magnetic Island for the mid-year function at the local RSL and many thanks to president Brad Starr and his band of volunteers for looking after us. A great time was had by all and by all accounts it was just as well that we had to catch the ferry home otherwise we'd probably still be there. Don was suitably surprised by the birthday cake ambush sprung on him by the RSL staff, as we all were! The RSL president outlined his desire of forging closer bonds with the NQ Sappers and our committee is sure to take this on board.

The Black River Fishing Odyssey attracted 14 members to Gary's beachside home and yes, the odd fishing line was wet! (But not wanting to hurt the fish, they were left to their own devices in the briny.) Some new faces enjoyed the facilities at the No.1 Submarine Watching Station and many were the tall tales and true recalled over the weekend. Echoing the chick peas in lieu of baked beans episode (that I missed, bugger) Don had to barbeque in alfoil trays due to the parlous state of the plate but still produced meals to his usual high standard. Gary also took the opportunity with so many hands available to erect the new flag pole with cross bar at the Brabon Memorial Cenotaph at the local park of the same name. Also in attendance at the unveiling was Murray Veletti, the Senior VP of the Black River Residents Association as well as Rod Myers from Dawson Engineering Bohle who manufactured and donated the flag pole. The rigging was supplied by the NQ sappers.



*Are we there yet? On the ferry to Maggie*



*We're there!*



*A happy raffle winner*



*Happy Birthday Don!*



*Barry Low with his National  
Emergency Medal*



*the new flag pole at Black River*



*and Brownie whipping his cap  
into shape! ☺*

## AROUND THE TRAPS

I see that the force Structure Plan 2020 allows for the procurement of new armoured combat engineering vehicles and the introduction of smart anti-tank mines. Seems only last century that we saw smart anti-tank mines being demonstrated.



Good to see the venerable one Paul Hayford (Ex RE and RAE) out and about at the AGM recently. Paul hasn't enjoyed the best of health of recent times but old mate cut a dashing figure in his latest set of self-propelled wheels. Don't know about the blanket sporting Signaller's colours but. The blanket was made and donated by the ladies of Operation BLANKY up in Milla Milla through one of our members, Ramon Fenton from the Women's Veterans Network Australia. Another blanket was also donated to Graham Curtis who is also not enjoying the best of health at present. Many thanks to Ramon and the ladies up on the Atherton Tableland.

Fund raising has gotten off to a gentle start (again thanks to old mate Covid-19) with sausage sizzles at Bunning's and Kings 4WD. Big vote of appreciation to Bunning's who made up our expected loss during the restricted period with gift vouchers.



An update on the Calf Dozer mentioned in the last newsletter shows that the pushy thing at the front so beloved by planties is indeed in the process of being fabricated. Shown at left is the blade arm being assembled and reports are that the rolling of the skin for the main blade is being done by a mate of a mate who knows a mate. Expected completion by the end of this month.

And the winner of getting the least tiny pull tops (minus the tin) into a h-u-g-e container from the closest possible distance at the No.1 Submarine Watching Station is... No, couldn't possibly dob in the Pres...Oh! Bugger!

Question without notice from Camaraderie Vol. 51 No. 2: "When was the last American civil war pension paid? Those smarties who said May 2020 are dead right! Irene Triplett was 90 when she died in May this year, the last surviving American civil war pensioner, reportedly a jolly soul who chewed tobacco in a North Carolina nursing home. Her father Mose was born in Tennessee in 1846 and joined the army of the Confederate States of America aged 16. He deserted the following year and later joined the Union Army. His daughter Irene was born when he was 83 and her death completed the work that started with President Lincoln's promise in 1865 "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." The last widow of a serving CSA soldier died in 2008 and the last Union widow in 2003.

This begs the question "how long will Australia be paying for its involvement in Vietnam and more recently the Middle East and Afghanistan? At this rate...2120 and beyond?

Fire Support Patrol Base Anderson was a major battle, a forerunner to Coral and Balmoral, yet few know about it. I Field Squadron was heavily involved in this operation and took casualties including KIA. <http://rarasa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/FSB-ANDERSEN-A-NIGHT-OF-THE-YEAR-OF-THE-MONKEY-1968.pdf> ☺

## COMING EVENTS

11 November	Remembrance Day	Greenvale State School ANZAC Park Townsville Thuringowa Cenotaph	Timing TBA Timing TBA Status/Timing TBA
	Presentation of Book	KELSO State School	Timing TBA
TBA December	Christmas Function	Venue TBA	

If members have any thoughts/ideas for functions please speak to Jeremy Browne the Social Coordinator. He would welcome your input.

For further details please see the Events Calendar. Remember that meetings are at the Townsville RSL till further notice. ☺

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a year so far! 2020 has had its challenges, and has been a fair bit quieter than previous years, that's for sure!

Thankfully, with approved COVID safety plans in place, we are starting to see our fundraising activities return. Our regular BBQs at Kings 4 Wheel Drive Centre are back and keeping us occupied for a few hours most weekends, and putting the Association's BBQ Trailer back to good use. What's more, I have no doubt our reputation as BBQ-ing legends was the reason the Sappers Association Nth Qld were selected as one of the "Not for Profits" to run a trial weekend BBQ at the local Bunnings. And boy did the Bunnings "Living with Covid" BBQ created a whole new set of dilemmas for our well-oiled fundraising crew: new approvals, new training, and new routine, new number of volunteers, to name but a few of the changes. You thought onions underneath your sausage was controversial – we had to add the sauce for every customer!!! No more, "there's the sauce, help yourself!!" this trial was challenging to say the least. But like so many sappers before us, we arranged our sauces, masked our cook and sappered on - we had a great day and made a couple of dollars in the process, who said you can't teach old dogs new tricks

With the easing of some Covid restrictions in August, we were finally able to conduct our 2020 AGM, and I would like to thank the committee who have continued on for this year, as well as welcoming our two newbies: Jeremy Browne and Deborah Kealley. A special mention to the management and staff of the Thuringowa RSL, who opened the Club for our use on the Sunday, watered and fed us, and provided us with appropriate premises to conduct our AGM. Shout out to our two retirees - Don Cameron and Allan Mansell - thank you both for your commitment and dedication to the Association, and your generous gift of time served on the committee – you will be missed.

Don had a couple of jobs to see him finish up, the first being the mid-year function at Magnetic ("Maggie" to the locals) Island – what a day! From the ferry trip across Coral Bay, to the chartered bus, the food, the drinks, and the camaraderie and birthday cake at the Maggie Island RSL - everything was spot on! Well organised, well run, well executed, great day, and what an awesome way to spend your birthday, thanks Don.

The second of our departing social director's tasks was our "Fishing trip" to Gary's hut, where approximately 12 of the Association ventured to Bushland Beach to chew the fat, wet a line and solve the problems of the world. A big turn out this year, with many yarns, too many beers, and not much fishing accomplished, it seems the word is out about what a great weekend this annual pilgrimage really is. Of course, what happens on the fishing trip, stays on the tripping fish so no other details can be divulged here, suffice to say congratulations to the organisers Don and Jeremy - well done guys!!

Last year we experienced a 1 in 100year flood event here in The Ville, which saw so many Townsvillians' homes submerged, damaged, or both. During this devastation, a few from the Branch spent some time knee deep in mud, helping out with the clean-up, and as a result were awarded the National Emergency Medal with Nth Qld 2019 clasp. Congratulations to those members.

Despite the restrictions imposed on all of us earlier in the year, we have still managed a couple of projects with 3CER in the latter half of 2020. The first of these being a yard and garden upgrade for a very deserving young Crafty. 3CER provided the manpower for the yard work, with us taking the BBQ trailer along and feeding the troops for the three days they spent labouring away in the back yard. Trees removed, dirt spread, turf laid, plants planted and sappers fed – garden party complete!

Our second collaboration with the Regiment was the removal and replacement of 3 flagpoles for the Nasho Association at their Rowes Bay Memorial. Again, much of the heavy lifting was completed by the Sappers of 3CER, whilst we provided a sensational feed courtesy of the BBQ trailer and the extraordinary BBQ-ing prowess of our master BBQ-er Cliff Kemp, ably assisted by Wombat. With the Dingo Inn not open at the moment, and our BBQ fundraisers limited, these tasks were an awesome opportunity to be present and relevant with the young Sappers of the Regiment, whilst providing some real and valuable assistance to members of our extended service family.

I hope this finds everybody safe and sane and keeping well, and hope the COVID trajectory continues to see us able to enjoy the company of those we care about, and the ability to serve our community.

Tony Kealley

President

NQ Sappers ☺

#### **NORTH QUEENSLAND (TOWNSVILLE) BRANCH.**

Please note that fees are now \$25.00 for country members and \$35.00 for city members.

For those of you who are into electronic banking and would prefer to pay by that means our details are:

**Bank: Bendigo Bank**

**BSB: 633-000**

**Account Number: 162988240**

**Account Name: Sapper Association Queensland Inc – North Queensland Branch**

Please use your surname and initial to identify payment.

**FEES DUE BY THE FIRST OF APRIL. IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**



#### **11 ENGINEER REGIMENT**

#### **104 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON -**

**Submission for Sapper Association magazine (Contact – Captain Chris McCullough)**

#### **Tradies hidden potential to carry Defence interests forward – Lieutenant Katherine Burke**

The employment of the Royal Australian Engineers in a part-time 'call up' role, or a full-time role within 11 Engineer Regiment (11 ER) has significantly spiked within the last twelve months with increased use of our unique skillsets for domestic based community assistance tasking. No task has been more notable than Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 2019 where construction engineers helped in key tasks such helping rebuild the beloved Mogo Zoo on the New South Wales south coast.

These domestic commitments, combined with a whole of Australian government interest in ensuring development of our Indo-Pacific partners and their in-country infrastructure has seen the demand for assistance in Civil Community and Domestic Aid drastically increase, making the readiness of our total workforce Engineers in 11 ER more paramount than ever.

The Army Reserve has traditionally experienced a model of soldiers seeking job roles different to their civilian employment in order to challenge themselves, however, increasingly soldiers are now presented with the option to have the best of both worlds.

Forces Command - Army is allowing any soldier, be it a Rifleman, Gunner or Driver, to maintain their current exciting role within Army whilst also being able to offer capability to Army by having their civilian qualification recognised and placed in a database pool for employment in the event of Domestic and International Aid civil aid tasking. There are also opportunities for soldiers to seek corps transfers in order to have their civilian skills recognised and further developed within Army.

The School of Military Engineering is now offering trade assessments for in-service personnel who hold carpentry, electrical or plumbing qualifications in their civilian work. Soldiers holding these qualifications are encouraged to contact their relevant Unit staff, including the Unit Recruit Liaison Officer (URLO), to assist in the process. It must be noted that recognition of these skills is a no obligation offer and has no impact on their current employment within Army. Instead, this provides soldiers with the opportunity to provide the Australian Defence Force with key capability when it is needed most both at home and overseas.

### **11 Engineer Regiment's support to Operation COVID-19 ASSIST – Lieutenant Olivia Harvey**

2020 has been a year filled with various challenges and experiences for the 11 Engineer Regiment (11 ER), having been involved in supporting Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19, conducted an Initial Employment Training course, conducted various training exercises and supporting Operation COVID-19 ASSIST (OP C-19A) in a Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) role within QLD.

The involvement of 11 ER members on OP C19-A within the Joint Task Group (JTG 629.3) began out West, on Police Control Points (PCP) near Roma, supporting the Queensland Police Service in State border pass compliance. As the complexity of the COVID-19 situation adapted, members saw themselves returning to Brisbane to support Quarantine Compliance Management (QCM) in civilian hotels and airports. Throughout this ever evolving Operation, members of 11 ER were deployed in various roles, everything from JTG Headquarters to working in Task Units (TUs). Officers and Senior NCOs deployed to the JTG 629.3 headquarters element were involved within primary decision making positions, whilst soldiers in TUs primarily executed the tasks required. In the HQ, these roles included Personnel Branch roles which enabled the Operation's provision of replacement Reservists on task; in the TUs tasks included PCP and QCM tasks, as well as establishing Bio-security Check Point tasks to enable the health safety of indigenous communities.

The majority of 11 ER soldiers were deployed into Task Unit 1, the Regiment-sized entity responsible for the QCM and supporting PCPs in SE QLD. Members of the Regiment were involved either as section members or in command positions. Here, members of 11 ER gained exposure to working with and assisting QLD government agencies such as QPS, State Emergency Services, QLD Health and the Royal Fire Service in a range of different tasks including conduct of health cordons at QCM hotels. These environments proved to be challenging and rewarding, assisting Australians in trying times whether that be aiding a family moving out of Victoria's second COVID-19 wave or enabling people to quarantine at hotels.

OP C19-A has proven to be a unique experience to be involved in for the Regiment. 11 ER members developed QLD government agency and tri-service relations, and interacted with different agencies and people that they usually would not. They gained experience and perspective regarding Domestic Aid to the Civil Community (DACC) and the importance on giving back to our country, demonstrating true Army values. Although not aligned with an engineer's usual tasks, 11 ER members are proudly leading the way to 'follow the sapper' on operation.

### **Preparing to support Domestic Operations: the High Risk Weather Season – Lieutenant Emma Watson**

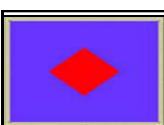
11 Engineer Regiment continues to support tasks that are at the centre of what the corps is designed to achieve. The corps is the first to be called upon when disaster occurs in High Risk Weather Seasons (HRWS), supporting the community through a large variety of tasks that are practiced throughout the year on various training exercises.

Of note, 11 ER commits to HRWS preparedness through training for tasks including tree felling, construction and plant equipment-based activities. As a unit that sits within the South-East Queensland region, not only is the unit prepared to support Queensland-based tasks, but they continue to be ready to

deploy nationally. The engineering squadrons provide members at high-readiness during the HRWS to deploy rapidly to affected areas and begin works alongside state services and other government agencies. During 2019 and 2020, 11 ER deployed members to NSW and VIC to support Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19 (OP BA 19) and performed a wide variety of tasks, from clearing critical roads and paths of debris through to preparing temporary roadways where roads and river crossings had been damaged due to fire. Other members deployed as reconnaissance teams and identified priority tasks that were fed back to the Reconstruction Task Force.

Key achievements included: close work with civilian agencies including the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Rural Fire Service; mobility support to utility companies in order to gain access to critical power and communication infrastructure; reducing obstacles blocking access for civilians to their properties (including civilians who hadn't left since before fires passed through); clearing access to areas of cultural, historical and biological significance and supporting firefighting efforts through bulk water carriage to water tanks in the local area that were previously contaminated.

The ongoing unit activities during the year include plant code courses for plant operators, tree felling courses and general construction support tasks; this is structured to continue to develop the skills of 11 ER members in the unit – allowing us to swiftly support civil agencies in the event that another environmental disaster occurs during the HRWS.



Submitted by  
Captain Donald Robertson

## 2 CER NEWS

The second half of 2020 has continued to be a dynamic and productive time for the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment.

Over August to September, 2 CER conducted a number of larger collective training activities. Central to this was 7th Combat Engineer Squadron's Exercise LIGHTNING WALK, where they completed a range of Combat Engineer training activities. With this training complete, the Squadron is ready to integrate with supported combat teams in October.

In August, 24th Support Squadron conducted a course in the Water Purification and Desalination System Medium (WPDS-M). This course culminated in the deployment of that system to the Port of Brisbane, allowing participants to produce potable water from a salt water source. This training enables



**Figure 1: A Sapper from 7th Combat Engineer Squadron prepares to explosively cut a simulated detonation cord during Exercise Lightning Walk.**



**Figure 2: The Water Purification and Desalination System – Medium at the port of Brisbane.**

the Regiment to be prepared for possible future tasks, including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations.

Also during August, the 24th Support Squadron conducted the Regiment's first Dry Support Bridge (DSB) Course, qualifying a number of sappers in this capability. The builds were conducted by day and night, and in the context of both low and high threat scenarios. The DSB will be integrated into Brigade training at Shoalwater Bay in October.

## **2 CER NEWS continued**

In September, the 2nd Combat Engineer Squadron integrated with the 8/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (8/9 RAR) in Exercise BRAHMAN STRIDE. In this exercise, our sappers, including explosive detection dogs and their handlers, supported an air mobile urban cordon and search.



**Figure 3: Soldiers from 8/9 RAR and 2 CER board a CH-47 Chinook during Exercise Brahman Stride.**



**Figure 4: 2 CER's Explosive Detection Dog Willis watching Sapper Elizabeth Meli's back on a patrol during Exercise Brahman Stride**

The remainder of 2020 will see the Regiment continue to support Operation COVID-19 Assist, participate in a Brigade Field Training Exercise, and prepare for the High Risk Weather Season.

### **EDITOR'S JOTTINGS**

#### **5 FER Reunion**

The committee this year arranged a "Covid 19 safe" reunion at Sherwood Forrest Park on Sunday, 16 August 2020. There was a reasonable turnout although many opted to stay home. We look forward to better times in 2021.

#### **Head of Corps**

Along with the Order of the Day, shown in this newsletter, the HOC had issued his Address, normally given at Waterloo Dinners, but this year emailed to all Engr Units and ex sapper associations. Our Secretary emailed it to our members and it made for interesting reading.



BO8610300

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS  
ORDER OF THE DAY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HEADQUARTERS 22 ENGINEER  
REGIMENT, 105 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON AND 203 WORKS SECTION**

**4th AUGUST 2020**

Post the end of the Second World War, the Engineer in Chief, MAJ GEN Sir Clive Steele, made a recommendation to raise the Supplementary Reserve (SR). The Australian Army needed a broad range of professional, trade and technical skills readily available for potential contingencies. The Minister subsequently authorised the raising of two engineer regiments using the Supplementary Reserve system, one in New South Wales (21 Construction Regiment SR), and one in Victoria (22 Construction Regiment SR) on an active reserve basis.

The Supplementary Reserve brought a unique capability to Army, consisting of members who had specialist skills required by ADF. The members came from organisations such as the State Water Boards, State Electrical Company, Melbourne Harbour Trust, Victorian Railways and the Forestry Commission and Country Roads Board. In essence, units could be sponsored by organisations through counties, shires, municipalities, government or semi government instrumentalities. The level of technical expertise within the government authorities was first class. Many professional engineers, technicians and tradespeople also had considerable World War Two experience.

Over time the number of Supplementary Reserve units grew to include 99 Construction Squadron, 39 Electrical & Mechanical Squadron, 80 Quarrying Squadron, 91 Forestry Squadron and 203 Works Section. The Supplementary Reserve was incorporated into the Army Reserve in the mid 1990's.

The remaining elements of the original Victorian Supplementary Reserve are Headquarters 22 Engineer Regiment, 105 Construction Squadron and 203 Works Section. They celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 4 August 2020.

  
**John Carey, CSC**  
Brigadier  
Head of Corps  
Royal Australian Engineers

**4<sup>th</sup>** August 2020

### **BOOKS OF INTEREST**

“A TWIST IN THE POGO’S TALE” written by Derek Smith.. Price \$25.00 He will post to anyone wishing to buy one. Cost including postage and packaging is \$31.20. email contact is [dvsmith@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dvsmith@ozemail.com.au)—mobile phone number is 0438 221 114. ISBN 9780994 559104.

‘DOGS OF WAR’ co –authored by Tony Park with Sapper Shane Bryant. The book tells the story of Shanes time in the RAE and NSW Police Force as a dog handler and his subsequent deployment in Afghanistan as a civilian contract Dog Handler. Shanes time in Afghanistan included service with US Special Forces. The book is available online from: Amazon, Booktopia and Other on-line book stores. It is available as an eBook, Print and audio. The best link to obtain a copy of the book is <https://www.tonypark.net/war-dogs-tony-park-international-author.html>

### **WELFARE & PENSIONS THE SAPPER ASSOC., QLD**

Any members seeking advice regarding DVA,  
Pensions or Welfare

Can contact;  
Peter (Fat Cat) Cairnes, Mobile:0427-558 685  
Or  
Harry Claassen, Phone: (07) 3273 6701

### **AATTVA ( Old BR ) Inc Pensions Officer/ Advocate**

**Mr John McDonagh**

Mobile 0423 138 346,

email [aattvqldbr@westnet.com.au](mailto:aattvqldbr@westnet.com.au)

John is a vastly experienced Pensions Officer who has had many years with DVA and Brisbane Legacy. “DVA have discontinued funding for this service. However, he is willing to continue this service by Working from his home. Association members who wish to contact John should Call him via the mobile phone above.

### **SAPPERS’LUNCHEES, GAYTHORNE RSL**

A luncheon was held on Thursday, 3rd September. Trevor Shelley was back in town and was joined by quite a few old mates (20 odd blokes). Two tables were set aside for our gathering. Yarns and jokes were swapped around the tables. Next luncheon should be on the first Thursday in December.

You can contact John (Jethro) Thompson for details on Mobile: 0488 680 360.

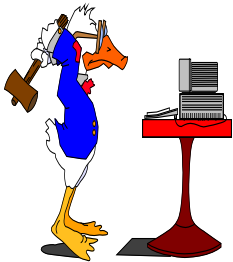
### **ITEMS FOR SALE, BRISBANE**

The following items are for sale to members:

Lapel badges	\$8.00	Association Plaques	\$40.00
Embroidered cloth badges	\$6.00	Stubbie holders (tubes)	\$ 2.50
Stubbie holders (with Bases)	\$3.50		

Contact the committee if you wish to make a purchase..

### **Website & Email addresses of interest.**



### **WANT TO RESEARCH A DIGGER RELATIVE?**

For all the clues try:-

RAE CORPS SHOP

RAE ASSOCIATION – WA:

COCKSCOMB –

VETERAN HELP – Central Qld

WATER TRANSPORT ASSOC

MUSEUM OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

THE SAPPERFACEBOOK PAGE IS

RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.

1 FD SQN GP

<http://www.dva.gov.au/help/digger.htm>

[corpsshop@gmail.com](mailto:corpsshop@gmail.com)

[www.wasappers.com.au](http://www.wasappers.com.au)

<http://veteranretreat.tripod.com>

<http://talk.to/veteransupport>

[www.32smallshipsqn.org.au](http://www.32smallshipsqn.org.au)

[www.aamme.com.au](http://www.aamme.com.au)

Queensland Sapper Association

[raevictoria.com](http://raevictoria.com)

[www.1fieldsappers.org](http://www.1fieldsappers.org)

Please advise the Association Secretary either by email, phone or snail mail when you move to a new address or change your email.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of this association.